

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

10

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 10 December 1999 (10.12.99)	in its capacity as elected Office
International application No. PCT/US99/10190	Applicant's or agent's file reference 5836-01-MJA
International filing date (day/month/year) 10 May 1999 (10.05.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 15 May 1998 (15.05.98)
Applicant AOMATSU, Akira	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
17 November 1999 (17.11.99)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35</p>	<p>Authorized officer</p> <p>Kiwa Mpay</p> <p>Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38</p>
	<p>3006856</p>

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TREATY

5836
PCT

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

Rose Armstrong

PCT

To:

MANSMANN, Ivo
Warner-Lambert Company
Legal Division
Patent Department
Gödecke AG
Mooswaldallee 1
D-79090 Freiburg
ALLEMAGNE

Patentwesen	
Entered:	20. April 2000

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 19.04.2000

Applicant's or agent's file reference
5836-01-MJA

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/US99/10190

International filing date (day/month/year)
10/05/1999

Priority date (day/month/year)
15/05/1998

Applicant
WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.



Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

Authorized officer

European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0
Fax: +49 89 2399 -

Senkel, H

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5836-01-MJA	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US99/10190	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/05/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 15/05/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61K31/195		
Applicant WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 		

Date of submission of the demand 17/11/1999	Date of completion of this report 19.04.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Winger, R Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8129



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):

Description, pages:

1-75 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-17 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description. pages:
 the claims. Nos.:
 the drawings. sheets:

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- the entire international application.
 claims Nos. 1-8 and 10-16 (in part).

because:

- the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

- the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

- the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

- no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 1-8 and 10-16 (in part).

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims
	No: Claims 1-17
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims
	No: Claims 1-17
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-17
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

Re Section III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The International Search Report for claims 1-8 and 10-16 was only established for compositions comprising at least one of gabapentine, baclofen and/or pregabaline in combination with at least one of glycine, valine, L-alanine and/or isoleucine. Accordingly, the examination was carried out taking these restrictions into account.

Re Section V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The following statement with regard to novelty is restricted to the subject-matter of the claims as searched.

2. **Prior Art:** Reference is made to the following documents cited in the International Search Report
 - D1: US-A-4 126 684
 - D2: DE 39 28 183 A
 - D3: US-A-5 084 479
3. **Novelty:** The subject-matter of claims 1-17 does not seem to be novel
 - 3.1 Document D1 discloses a pharmaceutical preparation in the form of tablets containing amongst others baclofen and glycine (col 4, example 2), thus anticipating the subject-matter of claims 1-4, 7-9. In addition, the concurrent application in document D3 of - amongst others - gabapentin and glycine (col 7, l 11), which are dissolved in a solution (col 6, l 45), seems to anticipate the subject-matter of claims 5 and 6.
 - 3.2 Document D1 also discloses a process for the preparation of said composition, where baclofen and glycine are combined (col 4, example 2), thus anticipating the subject-matter of claims 10-12, 15-17. As mentioned above, document D3 seems to additionally anticipate the subject-matter of claims 13 and 14.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

4. The subject-matter of the claims concerns pharmaceutical products and their preparation which are industrially applicable under Article 33(4) PCT.

Re Section VII

Certain defects in the international application

5. On p 60, Table 5, the references to the samples (d and f) are wrong.
6. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1-D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

Re Section VIII

Certain observations on the international application

7. In the description and in the claims the term "4-amino-3-substituted-butanoic derivative" is used both for the 4-amino-3-substituted-butanoic derivative alone (the substance according to the mentioned formula) as well as for the combination of this substance with the stabilizing amino acid. Hence, the required clarity (Article 6 PCT) is missing.
8. Claim 1 is unclear, because the α -amino acid found on page 88 has to be combined with the 4-amino-3-substituted-butanoic derivative and should not be a substituent thereof.
9. It seems to be clear from the description on page 53 that - in order to obtain a stabilizing effect - a certain molar relation of the amino acid with respect to the butanoic acid derivative is essential to the definition of the invention. Since independent claims 1 and 10 do not contain this feature they do not meet the requirement following from Article 6 PCT taken in combination with Rule 6.3(b) PCT that any independent claim must contain all the technical features essential to the definition of the invention.
10. There seems to be a clerical error in claim 3 (p 90, l 21: adipic).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

11. In claim 14 the reference to claim 5 seems to be wrong.
12. The vague and imprecise statement "scope of the invention" on p 56, l 21 implies that the subject-matter for which protection is sought may be different to that defined by the claims, thereby resulting in lack of clarity (Article 6 PCT) when used to interpret them.

NOTED

NOV - 99

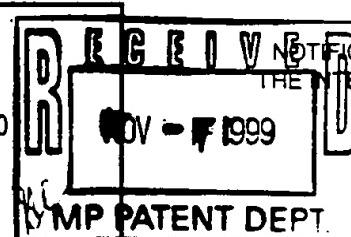
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

R. ARMSTRONG

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY
 201 Tabor Road
 Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
 THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
 OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 27/10/1999
Applicant's or agent's file reference 5836-01-MJA		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
International application No. PCT/US 99/ 10190		International filing date (day/month/year) 10/05/1999
Applicant WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY et al.		

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
 34, chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
 Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within 20 months from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority	Authorized officer
 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL-2280 HZ Tel. (+31-70) Fax: (+31-70)	
Express Mail No. EJ881445857US	
PD-5836-01-MJA	

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA... (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]: "Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]: "Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]: "Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or "Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]: "Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Office, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5836-01-MJA	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US 99/ 10190	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/05/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 15/05/1998	
Applicant WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY et al.			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

**STABILIZED PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS OF GAMMA-AMINOBUTYRIC ACID DERIVATIVES
AND PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME**

5. With regard to the abstract,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 99/ 10190

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-8 and 10-16 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds/products/methods. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds/products/methods claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds/products/methods having support in the examples, i.e. compositions comprising at least one of gabapentine, baclofen and/or pregabalin in combination with at least one of glycine, valine, L-alanine and/or isoleucine.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/10190

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61K31/195 A61K47/18 A61K9/20 A61K9/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,L	US 4 126 684 A (ROBSON RONALD D ET AL) 21 November 1978 (1978-11-21) "L": DOCUMENT SO QUOTED FOR ITS' CASTING DOUBT ON THE VALIDITY OF THE CONVENTION-PRIORITY CLAIM the whole document example 2 ---	1-4, 7-12, 15-17
A	DE 39 28 183 A (GOEDECKE AG) 28 February 1991 (1991-02-28) the whole document ---	1-17
A	US 5 084 479 A (WOODRUFF GEOFFREY N) 28 January 1992 (1992-01-28) ---	-/-



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 October 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/10/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fischer, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/10190

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 013, no. 061 (C-567), 10 February 1989 (1989-02-10) & JP 63 253022 A (NITTO ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 20 October 1988 (1988-10-20) abstract ---	
A	EP 0 458 751 A (WARNER LAMBERT CO) 27 November 1991 (1991-11-27) the whole document ---	
A	US 4 952 560 A (KIGASAWA KAZUO ET AL) 28 August 1990 (1990-08-28) the whole document ---	
A	EP 0 376 891 A (CIBA GEIGY AG) 4 July 1990 (1990-07-04) -----	

ational application No.

PCT/US 99/10190

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US 99 10190

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-8 and 10-16 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds/products/methods. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds/products/methods claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds/products/methods having support in the examples, i.e. compositions comprising at least one of gabapentine, baclofen and/or pregabalin in combination with at least one of glycine, valine, L-alanine and/or isoleucine.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/10190

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 4126684	A	21-11-1978	AU	515341 B	02-04-1981
			AU	2217177 A	17-08-1978
			BE	851278 A	10-08-1977
			CA	1069050 A	31-12-1979
			DE	2705051 A	18-08-1977
			FR	2340727 A	09-09-1977
			GB	1567543 A	14-05-1980
			IE	44562 B	13-01-1982
			IL	51415 A	30-11-1979
			JP	52099228 A	19-08-1977
			NL	7701494 A	15-08-1977
			PH	13312 A	06-03-1980
			ZA	7700773 A	28-12-1977
DE 3928183	A	28-02-1991	AT	113272 T	15-11-1994
			DE	59007550 D	01-12-1994
			DK	414263 T	16-01-1995
			EP	0414263 A	27-02-1991
			ES	2063219 T	01-01-1995
			HK	1003480 A	30-10-1998
			IE	65291 B	18-10-1995
			JP	3090053 A	16-04-1991
			PT	95082 A,B	18-04-1991
US 5084479	A	28-01-1992	AT	125701 T	15-08-1995
			DE	69111642 D	07-09-1995
			DE	69111642 T	25-01-1996
			DK	446570 T	27-11-1995
			EP	0446570 A	18-09-1991
			HK	1005166 A	24-12-1998
			JP	2903434 B	07-06-1999
			JP	4210915 A	03-08-1992
JP 63253022	A	20-10-1988	NONE		
EP 0458751	A	27-11-1991	JP	4270216 A	25-09-1992
US 4952560	A	28-08-1990	JP	61186311 A	20-08-1986
			JP	60214730 A	28-10-1985
			CA	1249968 A	14-02-1989
			EP	0159167 A	23-10-1985
EP 0376891	A	04-07-1990	AU	628455 B	17-09-1992
			AU	4717789 A	05-07-1990
			CA	2006771 A	30-06-1990
			DK	673489 A	01-07-1990
			JP	2221219 A	04-09-1990
			NZ	231923 A	26-03-1992
			PH	26730 A	28-09-1992
			PT	92730 A	31-07-1990
			US	5091184 A	25-02-1992

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Application No

PCT/US 99/10190

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 6 A61K31/195 A61K47/18 A61K9/20 A61K9/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, L	US 4 126 684 A (ROBSON RONALD D ET AL) 21 November 1978 (1978-11-21) "L": DOCUMENT SO QUOTED FOR ITS' CASTING DOUBT ON THE VALIDITY OF THE CONVENTION-PRIORITY CLAIM the whole document example 2 ---	1-4, 7-12, 15-17
A	DE 39 28 183 A (GOEDECKE AG) 28 February 1991 (1991-02-28) the whole document ---	1-17
A	US 5 084 479 A (WOODRUFF GEOFFREY N) 28 January 1992 (1992-01-28) ---	-/-

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 October 1999

27/10/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fischer, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/10190

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation or document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 013, no. 061 (C-567), 10 February 1989 (1989-02-10) & JP 63 253022 A (NITTO ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 20 October 1988 (1988-10-20) abstract ----	
A	EP 0 458 751 A (WARNER LAMBERT CO) 27 November 1991 (1991-11-27) the whole document ----	
A	US 4 952 560 A (KIGASAWA KAZUO ET AL) 28 August 1990 (1990-08-28) the whole document ----	
A	EP 0 376 891 A (CIBA GEIGY AG) 4 July 1990 (1990-07-04) -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

national application No.

PCT/US 99/10190

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US 99/10190

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-8 and 10-16 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds/products/methods. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds/products/methods claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds/products/methods having support in the examples, i.e. compositions comprising at least one of gabapentine, baclofen and/or pregabalin in combination with at least one of glycine, valine, L-alanine and/or isoleucine.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No.

PCT/US 99/10190

1

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 4126684	A	21-11-1978	AU 515341	B	02-04-1981
			AU 2217177	A	17-08-1978
			BE 851278	A	10-08-1977
			CA 1069050	A	31-12-1979
			DE 2705051	A	18-08-1977
			FR 2340727	A	09-09-1977
			GB 1567543	A	14-05-1980
			IE 44562	B	13-01-1982
			IL 51415	A	30-11-1979
			JP 52099228	A	19-08-1977
			NL 7701494	A	15-08-1977
			PH 13312	A	06-03-1980
			ZA 7700773	A	28-12-1977
DE 3928183	A	28-02-1991	AT 113272	T	15-11-1994
			DE 59007550	D	01-12-1994
			DK 414263	T	16-01-1995
			EP 0414263	A	27-02-1991
			ES 2063219	T	01-01-1995
			HK 1003480	A	30-10-1998
			IE 65291	B	18-10-1995
			JP 3090053	A	16-04-1991
			PT 95082	A,B	18-04-1991
US 5084479	A	28-01-1992	AT 125701	T	15-08-1995
			DE 69111642	D	07-09-1995
			DE 69111642	T	25-01-1996
			DK 446570	T	27-11-1995
			EP 0446570	A	18-09-1991
			HK 1005166	A	24-12-1998
			JP 2903434	B	07-06-1999
			JP 4210915	A	03-08-1992
JP 63253022	A	20-10-1988	NONE		
EP 0458751	A	27-11-1991	JP 4270216	A	25-09-1992
US 4952560	A	28-08-1990	JP 61186311	A	20-08-1986
			JP 60214730	A	28-10-1985
			CA 1249968	A	14-02-1989
			EP 0159167	A	23-10-1985
EP 0376891	A	04-07-1990	AU 628455	B	17-09-1992
			AU 4717789	A	05-07-1990
			CA 2006771	A	30-06-1990
			DK 673489	A	01-07-1990
			JP 2221219	A	04-09-1990
			NZ 231923	A	26-03-1992
			PH 26730	A	28-09-1992
			PT 92730	A	31-07-1990
			US 5091184	A	25-02-1992

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5836-01-MJA	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 99/ 10190	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/05/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 15/05/1998
Applicant WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.
 It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
 - b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished
2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).
3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

**STABILIZED PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS OF GAMMA-AMINOBUTYRIC ACID DERIVATIVES
AND PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME**

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. —

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 99/10190

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

 2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

 3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.: _____
 4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: _____

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-8 and 10-16 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds/products/methods. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds/products/methods claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds/products/methods having support in the examples, i.e. compositions comprising at least one of gabapentine, baclofen and/or pregabalin in combination with at least one of glycine, valine, L-alanine and/or isoleucine.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

16

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5836-01-MJA	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US99/10190	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/05/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 15/05/1998	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61K31/195			
Applicant WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 17/11/1999	Date of completion of this report 19.04.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer  Winger, R Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8129

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-75 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-17 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages:
 the claims, Nos.:
 the drawings, sheets:

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- the entire international application.
 claims Nos. 1-8 and 10-16 (in part).

because:

- the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

- the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 1-8 and 10-16 (in part).

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1-17
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1-17
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-17
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

Re Section III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The International Search Report for claims 1-8 and 10-16 was only established for compositions comprising at least one of gabapentine, baclofen and/or pregabaline in combination with at least one of glycine, valine, L-alanine and/or isoleucine. Accordingly, the examination was carried out taking these restrictions into account.

Re Section V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The following statement with regard to novelty is restricted to the subject-matter of the claims as searched.

2. Prior Art: Reference is made to the following documents cited in the International Search Report
 - D1: US-A-4 126 684
 - D2: DE 39 28 183 A
 - D3: US-A-5 084 479
3. Novelty: The subject-matter of claims 1-17 does not seem to be novel
 - 3.1 Document D1 discloses a pharmaceutical preparation in the form of tablets containing amongst others baclofen and glycine (col 4, example 2), thus anticipating the subject-matter of claims 1-4, 7-9. In addition, the concurrent application in document D3 of - amongst others - gabapentin and glycine (col 7, l 11), which are dissolved in a solution (col 6; l 45), seems to anticipate the subject-matter of claims 5 and 6.
 - 3.2 Document D1 also discloses a process for the preparation of said composition, where baclofen and glycine are combined (col 4, example 2), thus anticipating the subject-matter of claims 10-12, 15-17. As mentioned above, document D3 seems to additionally anticipate the subject-matter of claims 13 and 14.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

4. The subject-matter of the claims concerns pharmaceutical products and their preparation which are industrially applicable under Article 33(4) PCT.

Re Section VII

Certain defects in the international application

5. On p 60, Table 5, the references to the samples (d and f) are wrong.
6. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1-D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

Re Section VIII

Certain observations on the international application

7. In the description and in the claims the term "4-amino-3-substituted-butanoic derivative" is used both for the 4-amino-3-substituted-butanoic derivative alone (the substance according to the mentioned formula) as well as for the combination of this substance with the stabilizing amino acid. Hence, the required clarity (Article 6 PCT) is missing.
8. Claim 1 is unclear, because the α -amino acid found on page 88 has to be combined with the 4-amino-3-substituted-butanoic derivative and should not be a substituent thereof.
9. It seems to be clear from the description on page 53 that - in order to obtain a stabilizing effect - a certain molar relation of the amino acid with respect to the butanoic acid derivative is essential to the definition of the invention. Since independent claims 1 and 10 do not contain this feature they do not meet the requirement following from Article 6 PCT taken in combination with Rule 6.3(b) PCT that any independent claim must contain all the technical features essential to the definition of the invention.
10. There seems to be a clerical error in claim 3 (p 90, l 21: adipic).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/10190

11. In claim 14 the reference to claim 5 seems to be wrong.
12. The vague and imprecise statement "scope of the invention" on p 56, l 21 implies that the subject-matter for which protection is sought may be different to that defined by the claims, thereby resulting in lack of clarity (Article 6 PCT) when used to interpret them.